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The situation in Afghanistan

International drug control

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 13 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Joint Statement by the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, adopted during their second quadrilateral meeting, held on 18 August 2010 in Sochi, Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 38 and 108 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

* A/65/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan

18 August 2010

The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai; the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari; the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev; and the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, having gathered in Sochi on 18 August 2010 for their second quadrilateral meeting, discussed in detail the current situation of, and outlook for, the development of regional cooperation.

Underscoring the need for the consistent implementation of the agreements reached during their first meeting, held in Dushanbe on 30 July 2009;

Recognizing the particular significance of expanding and strengthening multifaceted cooperation between Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia and Tajikistan as an essential component of regional stability and economic development;

Welcoming the conclusion of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement and looking forward to its successful implementation;

Expressing concern at the persistent terrorist threat in the region, as well as at the presence of illicit drug production and trafficking on a scale that gives grounds to qualify such activity as a threat to international peace and stability,

1. Welcome and support the launch of the Kabul Process and the holding of the International Conference on Afghanistan which took place in Kabul on 20 July 2010. In this regard, they have lent support to the priority programmes developed within the five clusters of security, governance, economic and infrastructure development, agriculture and rural development and human resources development, and to the outcomes of the National Consultative Peace Jirga, as a milestone in the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan;

2. Stress the importance of regional cooperation in facilitating the stabilization of the situation in the region including through regional cooperation opportunities available within existing international and regional bodies, among them the SCO, in areas such as counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics, and call for the increased harnessing of the potential of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure for these purposes;

3. Consider it one of their priorities to combat the drug threat in an integrated manner throughout the entire chain of illicit drug production and trafficking, ranging from promoting alternative sources of livelihood and agriculture to crop eradication, as well as countering the supply of precursors and taking steps to reduce drug consumption, and are instructing heads of the counter-narcotics agencies of their countries to convene a meeting for a substantive examination of relevant issues as soon as possible;

4. Underline the importance of the "Channel" preventive counter-narcotics operation conducted under the aegis of the CSTO and advocate increasing the number of States participating in the operation as observers;

5. Express readiness to continue active participation in implementing the provisions of the Plan of Action of the SCO member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, adopted at the Special Conference on Afghanistan held under the aegis of the SCO in Moscow on 27 March 2009;

6. Confirm their intention to actively participate in activities to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, especially to eliminate financial channels connected with illicit trafficking of narcotics and their precursors;

7. Declare their determination to actively counteract illicit trafficking of weapons, munitions, explosives and other types of transnational organized crime;

8. Express interest in further enhancing regional economic cooperation in trade, economic matters, investment and improving the investment climate in the countries of the region and establishing direct ties between business circles;

9. Support the intention of business circles in Russia, Pakistan and Tajikistan to join with the Government and business community of Afghanistan in restoring and reconstructing facilities of key importance to the Afghan economy in areas such as transport, energy, management of natural resources and urban development, and emphasize the need to identify concrete priority projects in the aforementioned areas, including the Salang Tunnel, oil and gas facilities in the north of the country, a nitrogen fertilizer plant and thermal power station in Mazar-i-Sharif, the Kabul building plant and the Nangarhar irrigation facility;

10. Advocate implementing joint projects in energy and transport infrastructure development in the region, such as the CASA-1000 project aiming to establish a system to transmit electricity from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and support the participation of the Russian Federation in this project;

11. Express the hope that international financial and economic institutions will actively contribute to regional economic projects aiming to rebuild the Afghan economy and improve stability in the country and the region as a whole;

12. The Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan express their solidarity and sympathy with the Government and the people of Pakistan at the colossal loss of precious life and property caused by unprecedented flooding, and appeal to the international community to provide urgent assistance to Pakistan to overcome the effects of this terrible natural disaster;

13. Have resolved to hold the next meeting of the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. The precise date of the meeting will be established through diplomatic channels.